

HAWAII

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP TO CANADA / HAWAII | 20-21ST OCTOBER 2016

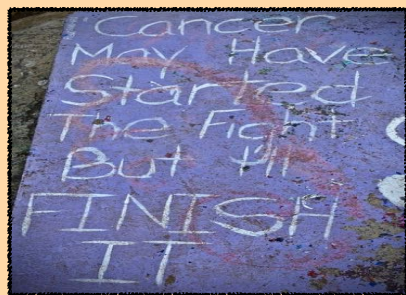
Hawaiian time

After tearing round Canada and now arriving in Hawaii we are slowly learning that everything here conspires to make you relax and slow your pace. The weather, the roads, the people, the beaches, everything. So we have decided not to fight it. Blow the other islands, blow the fact that we have not gone to Pearl Harbour and blow getting up early to see the sunrise. Tourists do that and we have stopped playing tourists.

The suburb where our house is located has been described as "THE choice place to be on the whole island!" A block from one of the best beaches and far enough away from the maddening crowd to enjoy at any hour of the day or night. Our view from the house is to die for - aqua water, palm trees and islands in the distance. Beautiful place. The car we have at our disposal is a two seater sports that can blow wind into your hair if you let it (and if the pop top wasn't broken). It takes about 15 minutes for Heather and me to shoehorn ourselves into the seats and about 3 seconds to drive anyway. Its almost like being young again - until we have to get out. Aches and pains where there were none before we got in.



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STAY STRONG Found this message on top of the pill box. "Cancer may have started the fight but I'll finish it." Stirring stuff.



BACK AND FORWARD? Up and back, up and back, up and back. Hang on, and watch the wind. Looked great for first few minutes but thought eventually you might get pretty bored doing this day after day after day.



SEGWAY Realised how big these vehicles are as they came up the narrow hillside footpath. Positively dangerous in the hands of novices in this situation. Stupid.

Walking, chatting, climbing and chatting some more

The last two days have whizzed by. Yesterday we woke late and ate a leisurely breakfast before experiencing the two white sandy beaches we have right on our doorstep. It was relatively early and the crowds were reasonably light. The sandy beaches were lined with many water craft from large outriggers and dragon boats to small paddle boards. At one point we sat down to enjoy watching the antics of the dozens of kite surfers as they rode their boards up and down the beach. Their wake followed them into the distance but there were also a number of boards with fins that allowed them to be lifted out of the water thus allowing them to go really really fast. We marvelled at how these surfers were able to get going again after they fell over - especially with long fins.

It was a long walk so when we returned we had a light lunch and then a nap before heading off to Drone Worlds again. We thought we might get bored but were surprised at how quickly the time went by when you are meeting people who are so delighted to catch up and chat with you. Chad's community is very special.

Our evening was filled with watching a couple of Netflix movies.

Next morning Heather was very keen to get some exercise. Behind our house is a couple of very high ridges. During World War II, this area was an obvious place to build defensive pill boxes. Chad and Kathleen had climbed the rough track to these a few days ago. Chad got some video footage with his drone. Now it was our turn but rather than wake up at 4.30am we decided to wait till the sun came up.

No sooner did we find the trail head than Heather started to have regrets. The early part of the track was straight up, and on loose dirt. It was actually quite dangerous. We grabbed small branches and tree trunks to help steady our climb. Up and up the track went. The wind hit us full on at the top of the ridge. The track follows the spine of the ridge with steep slopes either side. Heather suffers from vertigo so I had to continually make sure I kept an eye out for Heather and was not climbing too fast. We stopped many times for both of us to catch breath.

In the distance we could see the two old defensive pill boxes but it was some time before we were able to actually get to them. The path kept dividing and going in all directions but all were going up. Eventually we reached the first pill box and Heather had had enough. The view below was magnificent with a colourful foreground of houses, white beach and coconut trees. The backdrop was of silvery sea, islands and the sun sending streaks of light onto the ocean. I worked myself up to the second pill box and then, after some photos taken from the top, we made our way down the slippery path back to our house.

After a quick shower and a light lunch we headed off to see how things were going at the Drone Worlds again. People had been complaining that the organisation has been woeful the day before but there was no noticeable improvement. We had come to meet people we know from Facebook.

On the way home we dropped in to the Valley of the Temples. The main temple was built in honour of the many thousands of Japanese people who came to Hawaii from 1860 to work on the plantations. Fascinating.





PHOTOS

